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Nor does Mr. Chapman rest here. He shows at considerable length, and most commendably, the influence of the European situation upon the whole course of California affairs. This is true not only in the case of the chapters devoted specifically to the purpose (viii, ix, x), but appears frequently elsewhere throughout the narrative. Un provincialism, indeed, is not the least of the volume's merits.

Aside from making the general contributions already enumerated, Mr. Chapman has added much in the course of his discussion to our knowledge of individual topics. Chief among these more specific items we should list the excellent summary in chapter i of the Spanish advance from 1521 to 1687; the account of the motives for the settlement of California and the causes which delayed such a program; the analysis of administration and governmental problems and institutions; the influence of Indian affairs upon the northwestward advance of Spain; the account of the Anza and Garcés expeditions; and the failure of Croix to complete the work begun by Bucarey.

Mr. H. Morse Stephens has contributed a most admirable introduction to the volume; and the index and the bibliography show pains-taking care. The latter, especially, will prove of great assistance to students of kindred fields. There are six appendixes containing material of importance. The numerous, though somewhat small photographic maps are material aids to the reader's understanding.

By way of adverse comment one reluctantly points out certain defects of a more or less serious nature. A number of mistakes have crept into the text; there are some errors of construction; and the writer has not always been consistent in his form of citations. In handling the large mass of documents at his command, Mr. Chapman has failed rather too often to omit unimportant material, and to present the remainder in a clearly related and well-organized fashion. As a consequence the reader finds himself sometimes taxed to follow the narrative. The summary at the beginning of each chapter in a measure relieves this fault but does not entirely overcome it. The style of the book, too, is somewhat lacking in ease and facility of expression. These faults are to be regretted but they do not in any way destroy the usefulness of Mr. Chapman's scholarly and valuable contribution to southwestern history.

R. G. CLELAND

An American history. By Eleanor E. Riggs, M.A., vice-principal of the Sophie B. Wright high school, New Orleans, Louisiana. (New York: Macmillan company, 1916. 526 p. \$1.00)

A new elementary text in American history ought to justify its existence by a new organization of the material, by new emphasis upon cer-

tain phases of the history, by more or better aids to visualization, by better pedagogical apparatus, or by some similar contribution. A careful examination of the book under consideration reveals none of these conditions.

Its organization is the conventional one of a generation ago. Written by a southerner, it might be expected to place enlarged emphasis upon the south. We cannot see that it materially differs in this respect from other books written by northerners. The economic and social forces are emphasized in the preface but they are chiefly discussed in detached chapters and are not integrated into the warp and woof of the history. The maps are frequently inaccurate (opposite 230), confusing (242), lacking in essential detail or complex because of non-essential detail (117, 184). Upwards of forty pages are given to the military side of the civil war, yet there is not a single map that shows in relation the three most essential geographical features determining military operations: mountains, rivers, railroads. The bird's-eye view on page 441 is upside down and so is misleading. The pictures are chiefly photographs and many of them from poor originals and poorly executed (166, 308, 324). Too many are imaginative and do not illustrate the text. We see no use in the topical analyses at the ends of chapters when the same topics are given in full-faced type as running-titles through the chapters. The review questions are not particularly suggestive. The references are not sufficiently specific. Sometimes they are too meager. Only four books are given for the civil war (389); two of them are lives of Lee and a third one is misnamed.

The book is apparently compiled from secondary or tertiary authorities indiscriminately selected and poorly digested. It abounds in errors and inaccuracies. We mention only a very few. A grain cradle is said to consist of "several blades" (473). The anti-federalists "favored liberal construction of the Constitution" (223). The tariff act of 1789 "was prepared solely with the idea of securing a definite revenue" (217, 251). The national republican party still nominates candidates in 1844 (307). No mention of Maine and no reference to the balancing of states is given in discussing the Missouri compromise. In the grand review at Washington at the close of the civil war "upward of a million soldiers were reviewed by President Lincoln" (387). By the Erie canal, "freight rates were so lowered that it took but one third the time to transport goods" (263). The book is not worthy of use by any school.

EDWARD C. PAGE